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**AMENDMENTS TO THE ABSTRACT**

Please amend the Abstract of the Disclosure as follows:

Resources of a shared physical network element of a communications network are dynamically allocated between connection-oriented traffic and connectionless traffic. For each shared physical network element of the network, a resource requirement of the connection-oriented traffic is determined; and a respective connectionless traffic metric to be used for routing connectionless traffic is dynamically adjusted based on the determined resource requirement of the connection-oriented traffic. As a result, resources of the shared physical network element can be efficiently utilized, and congestion of connectionless traffic being routed through the shared physical network element is avoided.